

From: BOBA28@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/8/01 7:53pm
Subject: Comment regarding proposed settlement of Microsoft vs. DOJ

I Faxed my comments to the DOJ, but not sure they made it. The number that I sent the comment to was 202-307-1454, but the identifier on the Machine receiving the Fax was 202-353-8856.

My comments follow:

I support the current settlement with Microsoft by the Department of Justice and half of the states involved in this lawsuit.

I do not think any more severe penalties are warranted. Microsoft probably deserved a little hand slapping because of the way they dealt with the computer manufacturers. But the issue surrounding the operating system improvements and add ones is frivolous. The Internet Explorer was a needed part of the operating system and add ones such as these should be allowed. It was also very easy for others to use Netscape if they wanted to. Bottom line is that Internet Explorer wound up being the best browser. I believe that a large part of the fuss on this issue is being made by Microsoft's competitors who have wound up second and third best and have tried to compensate for their under performance by supporting the antitrust law suit against Microsoft. I believe that a major motivating force for the hold out states is purely political as it relates to companies in their area and political contributions.

As a consumer, I believe that Microsoft has been good to us. They have provided outstanding products at reasonable and decreasing prices. Some states would prefer that consumers buy all of the add on's and that could be big down the road. Where Microsoft has been dominate in a particular software application, prices have fallen. I also believe that Microsoft has contributed mightily to the US economy. They have probably been the biggest contributor in the last 10 years. They should not be punished for being good to consumers and the economy. I might also add that Microsoft is a good corporate citizen.

It is time to settle this suit as the Department of Justice and Microsoft have proposed. The more harsh remedies that are being proposed by the non agreeing states should be rejected.

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